

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

SKETCHES
OF
LEGISLATORS

AND
STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

BY JOHN CARDWELL.

AUSTIN, TEXAS:
DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN OFFICE PRINT.
1876.

THIRTIETH DISTRICT. -

Counties.—Bexar, Comal, Bandera, Kendall, Kerr, Gillespie, Mason, Menard, Tom Green, Pecos, Presidio, El Paso, Concho, Kimball, Edwards and Crockett.

SENATOR JAMES HARVEY McLEARY is a native of Smith county, Tennessee, where he was born on the twenty-seventh of July, 1845. He is a married man, has lived in Texas twenty years, and resides in the city of San Antonio, where he is practicing law with success.

At the breaking out of the war McLeary entered the Confederate States army, and served through four years as an active private in Gen. Tom Green's regiment. He bears the marks of four wounds received in this service. After the war he at once devoted himself earnestly to a course of study, and in 1868 graduated, as a bachelor of arts, with the first honors, at Washington and Lee University, Virginia. He graduated in law at the same institution in June, 1869, and directly thereafter commenced the practice of

his profession at Columbus, Texas, where he remained until January, 1871, when he removed to San Antonio.

Mr. McLeary has always allied himself to the Democratic party. He was elected, as a Democrat, to the lower house of the Fourteenth Texas Legislature, in which body he took a very prominent stand. He was probably the most fearless debater in the whole Legislature, and his course was marked by a zealous adherence to the interests of San Antonio and Western Texas. When the question of compromising the original bonus to the International Railway Company was before the Legislature, he was in favor of the compromise, that of \$3,000,000, in bonds of the State, instead of \$6,000,000. This compromise would have secured the early completion of the International Railway to San Antonio, an act of justice to Western Texas, imperatively demanded. The compromise finally made with the company, extending to it public domain instead of bonds, fails to benefit the western part of the State, and the exemption from taxation, accompanying it, will some day prove that Representative McLeary, and those who thought as he did,

were imbued, not only with public spirit, but with excellent foresight.

Mr. McLeary was elected to the State Senate without opposition, receiving about seven thousand votes. He is a thorough parliamentarian, a close reasoner, and strong debater, with a clear and powerful voice; and a man of unusual vigor of body and mind. He is a leading member of several important committees, and is chairman of the committees on Privileges and Elections, and State Affairs.